

By WKTV News

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UTICA, N.Y. (WKTV) - A father and daughter from Oriskany teamed up to bring war medals to a fallen soldier, and on Wednesday, they got their wish.

Private First Class Michael Miklos was killed during World War I in 1918.

The Werchowskis learned back in 2002 that Miklos was never awarded the Purple Heart or a Victory Medal that he had earned. They've been asking the U.S. Army for years to award the medals posthumously, but they can only be given to next of kin, something that Miklos, doesn't have.

When the Werchowskis approached Congressman Richard Hanna for help, they found it. Hanna purchased the medals on his own and awarded them to the Werchowskis in Miklos' honor at his Utica office on Wednesday.

"It's been over 90 years, closer to a 100 now that Michael was laid forgotten in France, and it's good to know that he finally gets the recognition that he deserves for dying for his country," said Alexis Werchowski, Miklos' great-great niece.

"He deserved these medals and we are here today to finish this out and it's an honor to be part of it," said Congressman Richard Hanna.

The Werchowskis say they are very grateful to the congressman for helping them close this chapter for Private Michael Miklos and his extended family.

[CLICK HERE to watch the video on WKTV.com](#)